The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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LABOR'S VICTORIES CAN NOT BE LISTED

Labor's victories can not be listed by percentages or debits and credits.

It is impossible to point to labor's "high water" mark in any period.

Labor's wage gains, its reduction of the hours of work, its betterment of conditions can all be recorded, as can legislation of benefit to the workers.

But there is something beyond these that can not be "tabbed," filed or card indexed.

The velocity of a 16-inch shell, roaring from the side of a battleship, can be measured with accuracy, but the power of an ideal is beyond computation.

The development of the human mind can not be valued by mathematical experts, adding machines or financial wizards.

The soul of labor! The aspirations for a higher and fuller life!

Every victory by the workers inflames this spirit and creates a more wholesome unrest in those who would make "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" a reality.

In all ages reaction's endeavor has been to kill this spirit, to discourage unity, destroy aspiration, chill hope and replace confidence in one's self with the deadening philosophy of dependence.

Labor's non-partisan political policy in this campaign has awakened labor to an unexpected degree.

The soul of labor has been stirred as never before.

It has ignored the cuckoo cry of reaction's defenders and pleaders that "Gompers is trying to deliver the labor vote."

Labor has won many victories in the present campaign, and will win more on November 2 next.

It has won its fight for non-partisanship, after 40 years of effort, and has destroyed the intolerance of party worship that was capitalized by special privilege.

But its greatest victory has been the awakening of the soul of labor—the wider acceptance among wage earners that in no economic or political institution shall the voice and presence of labor be denied.

Trade Union Philosophy Well Expressed By Bakers

Chicago, Oct. 16.—In their report to the convention of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union, the executives of this organization present this fine statement on trade union philosophy:

"The trade union movement can not set any hard and fast lines for itself. It has to reckon with the workers as they are and not as it would wish them to be. The growth and expansion of the trade union movement are apace with the growth and advancement of the wage workers themselves, and the cooperation of the wage workers in a given industry must come through a natural, orderly and well-defined course as a result of necessity and experience.

"Any propaganda aiming at the destruction of a movement which has taken generations to build up is fallacious, injurious and reactionary.

"We do not venture to say the A. F. of L. represents the finality in the evolution of unionism—no more so than anything else in the course of human progress ever represents a finality—but we do maintain that through the trade union movement, properly conducted, we can secure the complete fulfillment of our desires and aspirations."

COAL OWNERS GOUGE.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 16.—"A Leavenworth coal miner writes to this paper that on Aug. 16 the coal companies advanced the laborers at their plants $1.50 a day and at the same time advanced the price of coal $1 a ton," says the Kansas Trades Unionist.

"In speaking of the mine where he works he says there are 43 men employed, making the daily pay roll increase $66.50, while the daily output of coal is 200 tons. The increase of $1 a ton to the consumer, therefore, nets the company $153.50 over and above the increase to the men. And yet you hear on every hand that it is the high cost of labor that keeps the price of coal and other commodities up.

"Writing further he says: 'In 1914 we received $1.10 a ton for digging the coal and the coal was sold for $2.50 a ton. From that time up until now we had received advances in wages amountng to only 66 cents a ton and yet coal that sold for $4.50 in 1914 is selling for $9.50 now, or in other words, an advance to the consumer of $5 per ton to overcome an advance of 66 cents a ton to the miner."

WILL COAL OWNERS STRIKE?

Indianapolis, Oct. 16.—The special state fuel and food commission has set a price for coal, and Indiana coal owners refuse to accept the regulation. The secretary of the bituminous mines' association declares that mine owners will strike. "Operators," he said, "will to a large extent either close their mines or disobey the commission."

These are the gentlemen who would jail workers when they are forced on strike to secure a living wage.

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—A non-union shop campaign has been launched by the Illinois Manufacturers' association. Or, more strictly speaking, low-wage methods of these employers will be intensified. John M. Glenn is spokesman for the manufacturers. As secretary of their association he is the hired man behind whom child labor exploiters and low-wage advocates hide.

Glenn says the non-union shop "is the most vital question now before American industry."

PRINTERS WANT MORE.

London, Ontario, Oct. 16.—The Typographical union wants rates of $35 to $37 a week increased to $44 and $47.

OPPOSE KANSAS "LAW."

Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 16.—Governor Allen of Kansas made little progress in his attempt to interest this state in his "can't-strike" law on the occasion of his recent visit.

When the Kansas executive explained his wondrous statesmanship Governor Robertson, in a public statement, said:

"I am against the industrial court. I have said I was opposed to it in speeches over the state, and I am glad to say it again.

"Such a plan as they have in Kansas places entirely too much power in the hands of the court. Such a court must have power if it is to function at all. But from the nature of the case, the power of the industrial court provides for invading the private lives of the citizens, fixing wages and regulating conditions of work in a manner that may become oppressive to either labor or capital.

"State socialism is an easy step from the industrial court. If we can establish a court of that sort under our constitution, any other sort of state regulation of affairs that should be allowed to the freedom of the individual becomes possible. It would mean an upsetting of our entire governmental system."

CHILDREN GO TO WORK.

Washington, Oct. 16.—Within a year after they were legally permitted to go to work, one child out of every four in Connecticut left school for that purpose, reports the federal children's bureau.

This does not include newsboys and those engaged in agriculture and domestic service. Three-fourths of the children went to factories, the largest number of boys going to the metal industries and girls to textile and clothing factories. Of the boys, 18 per cent left the first job within a month, and more than one-half shifted work before six months. The greatest amount of shifting for both girls and boys occurred in the clothing industry and the least in the textile industry.

1,500 PER CENT PROFIT.

Boston, Oct. 16.—Hotels and restaurants in eastern Massachusetts are "running wild," according to Federal District Attorney Gallagher, who says many of these places are selling food at from 90 to 1,500 per cent profit.

"It is hard to believe," said the official, "that business men dependent on the public for a livelihood can go from day to day without conscience and common honesty levying tribute on their fellow citizens to the extent that their prices represent."

The hotel men reply that only by the strictest economy are they able to serve food "at anything like reasonable prices."

COOKS AND WAITERS OUT.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 16.—Cooks and waiters are on strike to enforce a wage of 33 1-3 cents an hour for waiters, $15 a week for waitresses, and an increase of from $3.50 to $5 a week for cooks.

The bosses have organized and are insisting on the non-union shop plan. They say they will pay these workers "what they are worth"—but the bosses want to be the sole judge, rather than agree to collective bargaining.

REJECT EMPLOYES' OFFER.

Lowell, Mass., Oct. 16.—Employes of a textile mill at this place believed the stories that high wages are responsible for mills shutting down and offered to have their wages reduced if the mill would continue operation. The manager declined the offer. He said there was no market for the company's product.

Textile mills in other sections of New England have also closed.

COOPERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Texas City, Texas, Oct. 16.—Coopers' union No. 102 has adjusted its strike and these craftsmen have returned to work.

LABOR'S STANDARDS ARE NOT STATIONARY.

There is a widespread belief that wages should be fixed on a cost-of-living basis. This idea is pernicious and intolerable. It means putting progress in chains and liberty in fetters. It means fixing a standard of living and a standard of life and liberty which must remain fixed. America's workers can not accept that proposition.

They demand a progressively advancing standard of life. They have an abiding faith in a better future for all mankind. They discard and denounce a system of fixing wages solely on the basis of family budgets and bread bills. Workers are entitled not only to a living, but modern society must provide more than what is understood by the term "a living." It must concede to all workers a fairer reward for their contribution to society, a contribution without which a progressing civilization is impossible. (Declaration by conference of trade union executives, at Washington, December 13, 1919.)

HARDING-COX RECORDS ARE CIRCULATED

Washington, Oct. 16.—In an appeal to organized labor to "study the facts and vote in accord with them," the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee has forwarded to affiliates the records of Senator Harding and Governor Cox on measures of interest to labor. The public declarations of these candidates on matters affecting labor are also included.

The A. F. of L. committee again emphasizes labor's non-partisan policy and the need for workers to cast a ballot in the interest of justice. The committee says:

"Labor has laid before the people in this campaign the political principles for which it stands. It has given to the workers all of the facts upon the legislative attitude toward labor of congressmen and senators. Now, in the line of duty, it presents the labor records of the candidates for the presidency of the two leading political parties of the country. In laying all the facts before the people, labor has shown that it has never sought special privileges, and has never asked for bounties, money guarantees or subsidies from the public treasury. On the contrary, the facts prove that labor's proposals have ever been in accord with the cause of justice and the principles of democracy.

"The cause of labor is the cause of humanity. Therefore, in the interest of humanity we urge all citizens to study the facts and to vote in this election in accord with them, regardless of partisan sentiment or political party advantage."

The A. F. of L. committee reports the demand for non-partisan literature increases steadily. The committee's speaking campaign is in full swing and in many sections women's auxiliaries, composed of trade union women and sympathizers, are active.

The value of the records of senators and congressmen, published by the A. F. of L., is shown in the requests by many of these lawmakers for copies of their labor records and for information on methods to give these records publicity among all wage earners.

The A. F. of L. records are accepted as authoritative even by unorganized workers. While the publication of these records by the A. F. of L. is not new, their use in this campaign has been more intensive than ever.

These records are a ghost to the vote-hunting agents of reaction, who feverishly protest their love for workers, but these wage earners insist on consulting records that haunt.

LESSON FROM EUROPE DRAWN BY UNIONIST

Fresno, Cal., Oct. 16.—In his annual report to the California state federation of labor Secretary-Treasurer Scharrenberg said:

"If California trade unionists generally could only see prevailing conditions in Europe they would surely join in a silent prayer of thanksgiving for the priceless privilege of living in so wonderful a land as our own California. True, even in California everything is not just as it ought to be, but here we have opportunities for individual and collective development, unheard of in Europe."

Secretary Scharrenberg speaks from information secured first hand, as he recently attended an international seamen's conference in Italy and afterwards toured Europe.

"It was not altogether an inspiring journey," he continues, "because misery and hunger are in painful evidence practically throughout Europe. Moreover, things seem to be going from bad to worse."

In urging American trade unionists to use sane methods, Scharrenberg said:

"Under our system of government we need but persuade the majority to bring about any desired change. Thus, when the workers are really united upon a given issue, when their hearts are bent upon the achievement of a certain object, nothing can stop success.

"From time to time minorities among us become impatient with the progress of our movement. This is a healthy sign. But when impatience seeks an outlet through the channels of abuse it only defeats its own purpose.

"Those who hope to further lofty ideals and worthy aspirations by such tactics simply direct attention to the fact that there has been little physical progress in our species for many thousands of years. The Cro-Magnon race, which lived perhaps 20,000 years ago, was at least equal to any modern people in size and strength. And some so-called unprogressive races, such as the Zulus, Samoans and Tahitians, are even today envied by the people of the white race for strength and beauty.

"Of course, there is a difference between physical and intellectual progress, yet current history has made it plain that we are a long, long way from the millennium."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 16.—A wage increase of $1 a day has been secured by the Typographical union for its commercial shop members. The union is now negotiating new rates for its newspaper members.

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 16.—When the speeches and eating were concluded at a "get-together" meeting of employers and members of the Typographical union, the employers announced that wages would be increased $4 a week, although their contract with the union does not expire until the first of next year.

Denver, Oct. 16.—The Typographical union has secured a wage increase of $6.50 a week for its commercial shop members, after months of negotiation. The new rates are $45.50 for day work and $48.50 for night work.

NONPARTISANSHIP URGED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 16.—"Those who do the useful work should especially make it their business to familiarize themselves, as far as possible, regarding the merits of all candidates coming before them for office," says the Journal of the Switchmen's Union.

"Questions of public concern are too frequently neglected, and all such neglect comes home as a rule to those unmindful of their importance in the form of misrule and oppression that could not prevail had they taken cognizance of them at the time they were placed before the people for discussion, approval or disapproval."

HIGH SUGAR PROFITS.

Boston, Oct. 16.—The American sugar refining company made a clear profit of over $11,000,000 in eight months, according to Vice President Foster in a statement to Attorney General Allen. The witness said the company would insist on wholesalers paying 22½ cents for sugar, regardless of the fact that the wholesale price has dropped to one-half of that figure. The company has a surplus of $23,000,000, but Mr. Foster said it would be unlawful to use these funds so the wholesalers could get sugar for less than they contracted to pay.

CAR MEN ADVANCE.

Wilmington, N. C., Oct. 16.—The patience of street car men in continuing long negotiations has resulted in a new contract which raises rates 26½ per cent. The work day is reduced to nine hours, which must be completed within 10 hours. Time and one-half will be paid for over 10 hours and differences will be referred to an arbitration board.

REINSTATE "NERVY" WOMEN.

Cincinnati, Oct. 16.—Trustees of the public library have reinstated seven women employes who were discharged because they asked for wage increases and then refused to apologize to the little upstarts who are temporarily occupying these positions. Organized labor took up the cudgels for the women, as did civic organizations.

BRITISH FOOD HIGHER.

London, England, Oct. 16.—The ministry of labor reports that the price of all foods increased 161 per cent between July, 1914, and September, 1920.

TRADE UNION THEORY IS AGAIN VINDICATED

Olympia, Wash., Oct. 16.—Employers of this state have smashed the Washington industrial welfare commission and the trade union theory that workers must help themselves is again vindicated.

The state federation of labor charges that Governor Hart joined with the employers to destroy the commission. To support this claim the unionists quote a letter from the governor's representative to an employers' association in which it is stated that because of the resignation of one member the commission "will stand a tie, and, therefore, absolutely deadlocked upon the question that is now before it, i. e., a decision upon the conference report for factory minimum wage scale. With this condition there will be nothing done unless a compromise decision can be reached."

This situation resulted in the resignation of the secretary of the commission, Mrs. Udall. In her letter to the governor, Mrs. Udall said:

"The commission as now constituted is inactive and I can be of no more assistance to the working women of the state in the position of secretary."

Seattle, Oct. 16.—The Seattle Union Record makes this editorial comment on the collapse of the state industrial welfare commission, which was supposed to set minimum wages for women:

"Women ought not to be obliged to rely on a political or legal mandate for their protection. Men have found that political agencies ofttimes prove broken reeds when leaned upon. Experience has proven that the surest and best way to safeguard the interest of workers is through their organization into unions on the industrial field."

DENY SILK SHIRT STORY.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—Judge Alschuler, arbitrator in a wage movement instituted by packing house employes, says the story of these employes buying $25 silk shirts and earning $100 a week, is "false and misleading."

"It is on a par with a good many other things that get into the newspapers," said the arbitrator. "I saw in the headlines in the papers here the other day about some men earning $100 or so a week. Whether it was intended or not, it creates the impression that that is the scale of wages for the yards. It is not fair."

The story was written, it is stated, by a packer's publicity agent and it was later "carried" by the press associations and given wide circulation.

The packers' employes do not object to wearing silk shirts, but they do object to the claim that they wear this apparel when the purpose of the story is to create a high-wage impression.

MARTIAL LAW ENDS.

Galveston, Texas, Oct. 16.—With the passage of legislation urged by Governor Hobby that gives the state executive control over the police and judiciary during transportation strikes, martial law has ended in this city.

There was no violence before the troops appeared or while they were here, but General Wolters suspended the writ of habeas corpus, suspended the right of trial by jury, dispersed a meeting of the local central trade union, and court martialed the editor of the Houston Press.

The Prussian method has been approved by the "law and orderites," who insisted on the non-union shop on Galveston's water front.

CONTRACT SET ASIDE.

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 16.—The state supreme court has set aside a contract signed by an injured worker in which he waived all claims for the sum of $500. The agreement was signed by the attorney of the worker but the compensation department of the state refused to accept it. The case was carried to several lower courts and the compensation department lost in every instance. On appeal the supreme court held that under the liability law the commission must sanction agreements. The decision is important because it stops claim agents of companies securing cheap settlements with injured employes.

NON-UNIONISTS STRIKE.

Moline, Ill., Oct. 16.—Employes of a non-union printing establishment in this city suspended work when they were refused wage increases. They threatened to join the union, and the terrified manager saw visions of being forced to make other concessions and concluded to "let well alone." After using the union as a club to win their increase the non-unionists returned to work.

LAUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 16.—Substantial wage increases have been secured by laundry workers, engineers and teamsters employed in this calling. These employes acted jointly and signed an agreement with the Laundrymen's association.

TEXAS UNIONS INCREASE.

Temple, Texas, Oct. 16.—Officers of the Texas state federation of labor report continued gains despite attacks by politicians who seek to curry favor with the anti-union element in this state.

STEEL WORKERS STRIKE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 16.—Steel workers are striking against the Donner steel company to secure collective bargaining. Last December the company also discharged its union bricklayers.

BOASTED EFFICIENCY IGNORES MANY WASTES

Washington, Oct. 16.—The federal bureau of mines says that more than 600,000,000 gallons of gasoline is lost by evaporation and that this loss could keep 1,200,000 automobiles in commission for a year if each car used 250 gallons of gasoline. The annual money loss is estimated at $150,000,000.

The worst feature of this loss, says the bureau, is that the wasted gasoline is the most volatile and consequently the best quality of gasoline obtainable, and that the prevention of this loss, which is economically possible, would not only increase the gasoline supply materially but would also increase the general standard of the gasoline.

Experiments in the principal fields show that a great quantity of the gasoline now escapes into the air. This can be conservatively estimated at about 20 per cent of the gasoline in the crude oil. Probably half of this, can be economically recovered, and this quantity will not only increase the supply but improve its quality.

The above statements are in line with similar declarations by other government bureaus regarding the economic loss, through a wasting of the country's resources.

The United States health service recently showed the appalling losses to this country because of diseases that can be prevented.

The forestry service has stated that for every four forest trees cut down by lumber men, but one is planted.

Secretary of Labor Wilson has stated that the loss through labor turnover is greater than all strikes and lockouts combined. Other losses include 200,000 babies under one year of age who die annually, 110,000 mothers who lose their lives because of improper attention at child birth, thousands of lives lost in industry and hundreds of thousands injured, and staggering losses because of faulty marketing systems, lack of proper storage, etc., etc.

The list could be continued indefinitely, and in every case exceed the loss through strikes, which statesmen would stop, not by removing the cause, but by taking workers' rights from them.

PACKERS "ECONOMIZE.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—The well advertised "economy" system of meat packers applies to workers, according to testimony submitted to Judge Alschuler, acting as arbitrator in the wage demands of packing house employes.

It was shown that outside parties pay for steam fitting, for instance, $1.25 an hour for eight hours and double pay for overtime. For the ordinary eight-hour day they pay $30 a day for three mechanics. The packers, however, have the same work done by employing one journeyman at the rate of 75 cents an hour or $6 a day, and two helpers qualified to do this particular class of work, although not thoroughly trained mechanics, to whom they pay 60 cents an hour, or $4.80 a day. This means that the packers save $14 a day on these three men, in comparison with what practically all other industries have to pay. As there are about 10,000 mechanical workers represented in the hearing, this represents a saving by the packers of about $47,000 a day, or $14,000,000 a year for their mechanical craftsmen alone.

GAINS BY METAL POLISHERS.

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 16.—The Rundle & Spence Manufacturing company locked out its metal polishers last August when these workers asked that a 70-cent rate be increased to 80 cents. Now the company agrees to pay the 80 cents and deal with the shop committee.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 16.—Metal Polishers' union No. 13 has won its strike against several firms that refused to increase wages. Rates will be 90 cents an hour until the first of the year, when $1 will be paid if certain other shops pay that rate at that time.

SAY RAILROADS WILL MERGE.

Boston, Oct. 16.—The investment bankers' association favors a merging of railroad systems "without disturbing the relationship of ownership and control which now exist." The bankers say this action is both desirable and logical.

Washington, Oct. 16.—The interstate commerce commission is considering plans to merge railroads into a limited number of systems, as provided by the Cummins-Esch act.

FILIPINOS OPPOSE JAPS.

New York, Oct. 16.—According to an Associated Press cable from Manila, trade unionists in the Philippines are organizing a campaign against proposed legislation to admit Japs and other Oriental laborers to these islands. The Filipino workers will have four-minute speakers make addresses wherever crowds gather to voice opposition to new Oriental immigration.

CIGAR MAKERS LOCKED OUT.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 16.—After operating a union plant for many years H. Schneider & Company declared for the non-union shop. Girls are now employed at the plant.

STAGE EMPLOYES GAIN.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—A wage scale that ranges from $45 to $50 a week and an eight-hour day has been negotiated by the Theatrical Stage Employes' union.

WORKERS ARE AROUSED BY INJUNCTION JUDGE

Minneapolis, Oct. 16.—A labor injunction by Judge Bardwell has recoiled on this court, and cheap wage employers are alarmed at the solidarity of labor because four of its members are jailed.

The fight started over a boycott of an obscure theater and the issue was taken up by the citizens' alliance. Judge Bardwell enjoined the strikers from picketing, from discussing the dispute or from referring to the fact that the theater is non-union, and ordered the Labor Review, official newspaper of the local trade union movement, to make no mention of the controversy. Under this order even the legality of Judge Bardwell's injunction could not be discussed.

Labor and its newspaper refused to be gagged, and three officers of the central body and Editor Cramer were arrested for contempt of court and fined. They refused to pay the fine and are now in jail.

The unionists were escorted to jail by thousands of organized workers and sympathizers. The demonstration has never been equalled in this city. The central body is also maintaining an effective boycott on the large retail section of this city where the citizens' alliance draws its financial strength. Judge Bardwell has cited other unionists for contempt of court. Associate Editor McKillips of the Labor Review, who is calling attention every week to the unfair theater, the infamy of the injunction and the boycott against the union smashers, may also be jailed by the irate court.

To date the only ones who have been injured are the cheap wage advocates. Labor has closed its ranks, and the wives of the jailed unionists have publicly indorsed their husbands' stand against the injunction writ.

ROADS STRIKE STONE WALL.

Washington, Oct. 16.—Railroad managers have struck a stone wall in the person of Walter W. Warwick, comptroller of the treasury, who is the court of last resort on all government expenditures.

Under the Cummins-Esch bill railroads are guaranteed all expenses for six months from March 1 last, when these properties were returned to their owners. Several managers have called on the treasury official to advance sums of money "on account," and the comptroller rules that when the railroads present their statement covering the entire period he will pay them.

It is now nearly two months since the six-months' period expired, but the railroads have again failed to show the boasted efficiency of private ownership of these properties. They seem to be in no shape to present their statement, and they want money, but there stands the comptroller of the treasury, who cannot be removed, who is above court orders on this question and can only be reached by congress changing the law.

And congress will not meet for several weeks.

Officers of the chamber of commerce of the United States are aiding the managers who are nettled at the obstinacy of Warwick.

WARRIOR IN NAME AND DEED.

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 16.—The mayor and council of Warrior, this state, do not belie the name of that thriving town.

General Steiner, in charge of state troops in the coal district, posted notices in Warrior that public meetings would be prohibited and that citizens could not assemble without his consent.

The mayor and council declared that there has been no violation of law in that vicinity, and that the notices and the military rule are undemocratic "and an insult to the citizens of the town of Warrior."

The governor was called upon to request the military officer to remove the notices.

COSSACKS RUN AMUCK.

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 16.—State cossacks are running amuck in the non-union coal fields of this state, and rival the thuggery of Baldwin-Feltz detectives. The cossacks are under the control of the state "department of public safety." Trade unionists declare that the cossacks are the greatest violators of law and that they are but tools of coal owners who would destroy trade unionism in that industry.

WORKERS WILL APPEAL.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—Leather Workers' union, No. 650 will appeal to the state supreme court against the jailing of several members by Injunction Judge Sullivan. The workers were locked out when they refused to abandon their union, and the bosses are being aided by Judge Sullivan in an attempt to drive them back to work.

JANITORS RAISE WAGES.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—A new agreement with a minimum wage of $30 a week has been secured by the Theater and Building Janitors' union. A few years ago the rates of these workers was $18 a week. Then they were unorganized.

FAVOR STATE COMPENSATION.

Baltimore, Oct. 16.—Trade unionists in this state are urging the Maryland legislature to accept the theory of state control of workmen's compensation.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Cincinnati, Oct. 16.—The Typographical union and commercial shop employers have submitted a wage dispute to an arbitration board.

IGNORE GOVERNMENT; ARE GIVEN TROOPS

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 16.—The coal section of this state has witnessed no disorder, but coal owners are furnished state militia to break a strike caused by the owners' refusal to accept an award by the bituminous coal commission. All meetings of miners have been prohibited.

When the public was worked into a frenzy, last fall, because of the nation-wide bituminous strike, a commission, appointed by the government, made an award after the strike was called off. The award was accepted by the miners.

The commission recommended that coal owners in Alabama and other fields meet with representatives of their employes and negotiate an agreement. The commission also decreed that the provisions of the award shall be written into the agreement, that the provisions shall not be subject to change or amendment and that they shall be adopted as written by the commission.

The Alabama coal owners refuse to obey this order and decline to deal with representatives of their employes.

The coal owners' attitude is a blow to the policy of settling industrial disputes by negotiation. Feeling has been intensified by the presence of state troops and the refusal of the commandant to permit the holding of public meetings in the strike zone.

WANT WOOL LABELED.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—The national sheep and wool bureau of America charges the national association of wool manufacturers with opposing a law that would compel the labeling of cloth because the manufacturers can make more money by selling shoddy goods for "all wool."

The sheep and wool bureau does not object to the sale of shoddy cloth, but insists that the public should not be deceived.

The people want shoddy marked and virgin wool cloth marked, says the bureau, so that they can take which they prefer and have a range of prices due to competition between shoddy and virgin wool cloth.

"We insist," continues the bureau, "that the reason that certain textile manufacturers wish to continue manufacturing 'all wool' cloth out of unidentified shoddy is that they can make more money through the use of shoddy than through the use of virgin wool.

"With no labeling law to stop them, they can sell shoddy cloth for the same price that they can sell virgin wool cloth. If there was a compulsory labeling law, they'd have to ask the people a lower price for shoddy cloth, because the people would not pay virgin wool cloth prices for cloth that they actually knew was shoddy."

ORGANIZED WORKERS LEAD.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 16.—"The present agitation against the Japanese once more forcefully illustrates the fact that nothing is ever done for labor unless it is done by labor," says the Los Angeles Citizen.

"Years ago the trade unionists of San Francisco, operating through the Asiatic exclusion league, started the agitation against the Japs which now is being seized upon by politicians of every degree. This is history repeating itself. The same thing occurred with the woman's eight-hour day, child-labor laws and woman's suffrage. Labor pioneers. The 'pollies' lead the procession with a brass band after they become convinced that the marching is good. But, after all, progress is made."

WANT STATE COSSACKS.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 16.—Large employers in this state have suddenly awakened to the farmers' need for police protection. The solution, saith these bosses, is a state cossack system. Employers in other states have advanced the same claim to secure the establishment of this strikebreaking institution, but the New Jersey employers are shocked that anyone would charge them with having this thought in mind.

We must protect the rural population is the popular cry—until the cossack bill is passed.

WANT LABOR BUREAU.

Charleston, S. C., Oct. 16.—The convention of the South Carolina state federation of labor declared in favor of a department of labor. At the present time labor is included in the department of agriculture, commerce and industry.

The convention urged increased appropriations for the public school system and for a minimum wage of $1,200 a year for public school teachers.

FUR WORKERS WIN.

New York, Oct. 16.—Striking fur workers have "captured" several employers who are members of an organization that is pledged to resist demands of their employes.

DISABLED PERSONS WILL GO TO SCHOOL

Washington, Oct. 16.—The federal board for vocational education is conducting an educational campaign for the purpose of acquainting citizens—and especially persons who do useful labor—with the purposes of the industrial rehabilitation act.

This legislation is intended to "stand injured workers on their feet," to make it possible for them to earn a livelihood, rather than be dependents on society. The act includes persons in every calling. If a woman is injured in a kitchen, because of the explosion of a gas stove, for instance, she may be educated for a new means of livelihood.

The federal board does not directly train these persons. The board supervises this work, which is conducted by boards in states that accept the act. These states are allotted federal amounts equal to the amount allotted by the state.

In explaining the workings of the law, the federal board says:

"The states probably will not set up separate training schools for the disabled for several excellent reasons. In the first place, disabled persons will be trained in so many different lines that there probably will not be a large enough group interested in any one occupation to form a training class. Better to put the man or woman in an already established school of good standing. Moreover, the disabled person will not want to leave parents or friends, and can be placed in a school near home. The state board will consider the case of every individual very carefully before placing him or her in some school which will teach the required subject. If there is no school conveniently located, then the state board will provide a private teacher. In some cases the disabled person will be sent straight into the shop to learn a trade right on the job.

"Every state can have at least $5,000 of federal money for this work if the people of the state want it. The state legislature, if in session, or the governor, must take the first step by accepting the terms of the act. To date 16 states have accepted the act."

UNEMPLOYED IN ENGLAND.

London, England, Oct. 16.—"The problem of unemployment is daily growing more acute," writes the labor editor of Reynolds's Newspaper.

"Not only in dockland, but throughout the whole of industrial England an alarming situation has developed during the past two months. It is safe to say that such a percentage of out-of-works has not been reached since pre-war days.

"Many schemes calculated to relieve the distress have been formulated by borough councils, but except in very few cases has any real attempt been made to cope with the problem. In and around the docks the pinch of poverty is being felt more and more."

BIG BIZ GRAFTS IN COAL.

New York, Oct. 16.—State officials have discovered a new grafting system by public utilities corporations. These concerns secure coal on priority orders for emergency public use and then sell it at speculative profits. Officials of one local electric company have been indicted for this grafting and Public Service Commissioner Nixon has issued an appeal to public utilities corporations to stop the practice.

One official has plead guilty to securing coal for his company under the emergency plea. It is stated that some of the crookedly acquired coal was exported and sold abroad at fabulous profits.

COAL BEING EXPORTED.

New York, Oct. 16.—The commissioner of public markets reports that foreign buyers are paying premiums for American coal.

"The mines," he says, "have developed a system of never having any coal at $5.70 a ton, but quote all the higher prices you want to listen to." The prediction is made that coal will reach $25 a ton this winter, and the official recommends that the federal government place an embargo on coal until domestic wants are supplied.

REJECT ARBITRATION.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 16.—In response to an inquiry by city officials striking electrical workers employed by the Citizens' telephone company stated that they would abide by an arbitration award. Manager Tarte of the company also favored arbitration—when the employes returned to their positions as individuals.

LINE MEN RAISE WAGES.

San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 16.—Electrical workers employed as line men by the public service company have raised wages 15 per cent. The new rates are $6.50 a day.

BANKERS SHOULD NOT CONTROL CREDIT.

Credit is the life blood of modern business. At present, under the control of private financiers it is administered, not primarily to serve the needs of production, but the desire of financial agencies to levy a toll upon community activity as high as "the traffic will bear."

Credit is inherently social. It should be accorded in proportion to confidence in production possibilities. Credit as now administered does not serve industry but burdens it. It increases unearned incomes at the expense of earned incomes. It is the center of the malevolent forces that corrupt the spirit and purpose of industry.

We urge the organization and use of credit to serve production needs and not to increase the incomes and holdings of financiers. Control over credit should be taken from financiers and should be vested in a public agency, able to administer this power as a public trust in the interests of all the people. (Declaration by conference of trade union executives, at Washington, December 13, 1919.)